

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)

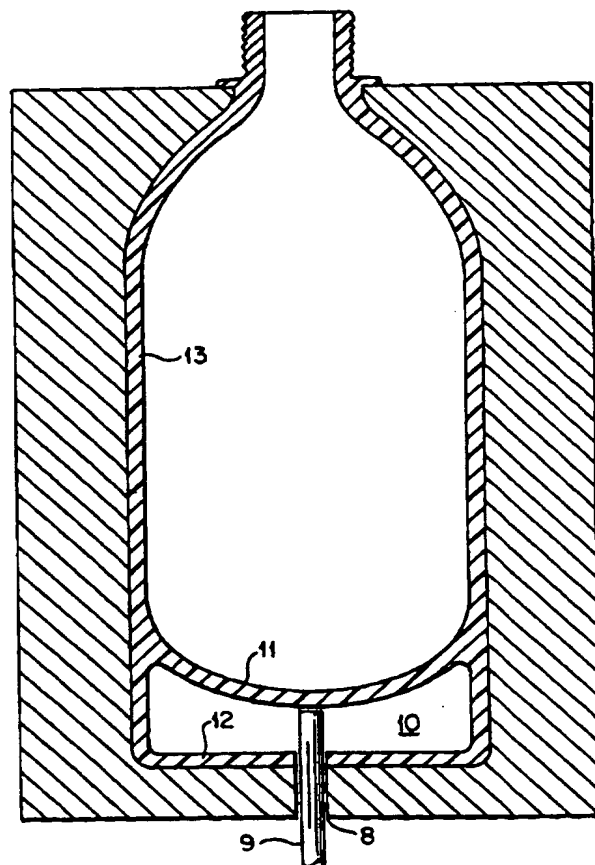
PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B65D 1/02, 23/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/30266 (43) International Publication Date: 3 October 1996 (03.10.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US95/03820 (22) International Filing Date: 28 March 1995 (28.03.95) (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: MAHAJAN, Gautam [IN/US]; 57 Jay Road, Stamford, CT 06905 (US). (74) Agent: HOLT, William, H.; Suite 150, 727 - 23rd Street South, Arlington, VA 22202 (US).		(81) Designated States: AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NL, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SI, SK, TJ, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH CUP SHAPED INTEGRAL BASE STAND**(57) Abstract**

A preform (1), a method for blow molding a bottle, and a bottle (13) formed from the preform and by the method are disclosed for use with beverages and the like wherein the bottles usually contain such beverages under pressure. The preform is shaped so that the resultant bottle is provided with a product-containing portion having a preferred hemispherical end portion and an integral bottom portion including a void therein for defining a hollow base portion (4, 12) which, in one form, contains fluid under pressure for balancing pressures related to the pressurized product. The hollow base portion provides for efficient use of material, and a minimal number of manufacturing steps, for providing a stable base for the hemispherical end portion (11) of the product containing portion of the bottle.



FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

PLASTIC CONTAINER WITH CUP SHAPED INTEGRAL BASE STAND

Background of the Invention

Bottles used for soft drinks and pressure applications require special base designs to efficiently contain the pressure. The best design to contain the pressure is a hemispherical one, but this will not allow the bottle to stand or be handled in filling lines, or be placed upright on a shelf.

To make a hemispherical base bottle stand, a base cup is attached to the bottle. Normally such base cups are injection molded of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) and attached to polyester bottles using hot melt adhesives. The use of base cups implies tooling to manufacture, and inventory of base cups, a separate attaching operation, alignment problems, and base cup falling off during use. In addition if colored base cups are required to match the beverage or the graphics additional inventory is required. The cost is higher because of base cups.

Recycling becomes an issue if the base cup material is different from the bottle material. For PET bottles, the base cups are HDPE causing recycling/and segregation problems.

Several novel inventions have been used to make one piece bottles to overcome the problem of base cups, and to provide pressure retention and the ability for the bottle to stand.

The most popular is the Petaloid base.

Other bases are the Conobase, (Krishnakumar et al. US Patent 4,108,324), the Supa base (Pocock et al. US Patent 4,525,401) and the champagne base, and Bartley, US Patents 5,004,109 and 5,066,081 for a skirt base. Bartley's invention has difficulty in axially stretching the skirt base and requires complex equipment.

All require additional material over a hemi-spherical base.

Brief Summary of the Invention

The purpose of this invention is to provide a one piece base that can be used to provide a hemispherical or close to hemispherical base integral with a cup shaped stand so that the bottle can have the advantages of a hemispherical base and the base cup respectively in one base, without all the disadvantages of the detachable base cup.

Yet another advantage of this invention is that if multilayered materials are used, the base cup can be monolayered, to provide cheapness.

Yet another advantage is that while the preform can be clear (or any other color), the base cup can be colored (or have a different color) through coinjection or the base cup can be made of a different/cheaper material that adheres with PET, or is a

reground PET resin, or a multilayered material with an adhesive or tie layer, compatible with the resin of the cup base and PET (or the material of the bottle).

Yet another advantage of this invention is that the base cup that is integral to the bottle can be biaxially oriented, because it is formed with the same type of stretching as is the hemispherical bottom and the bottle itself. This imparts strength and reduces weight.

In the Petaloid base, the corners of the legs thin out considerably. this is a problem particularly with multilayered materials, because this thinning can reduce the barrier properties. This problem does not exist with bases in this invention. Thus the barrier or other properties are superior.

This invention can also be used to make bottles with two compartments. In fact the air gap between the hemispherical bottom and the base cup is a compartment which can be pressurized, imparting stiffness and strength to the base cup, and reducing the pressure on the hemispherical base, thereby permitting further lightening of the hemisphere.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary, vertical, section view of a bottle preform particularly for containing fluids under pressure and having a hemispherical lower wall and a base cup integrally formed therewith.

FIG. 2 is a fragmentary, sectional view of a modified bottle preform having an integral base cup including an enclosed pocket or void for containing pressurized fluid.

FIG. 3 is a fragmentary, vertical sectional view of a modified bottle preform having a cylindrical cup shaped base portion formed integral with the bottle preform.

FIG. 4 is a vertical, sectional view of a bottle formed in accordance with the invention and having a hemispherical lower wall and an integral base cup including a bottom shaped to support the bottle in stable, upright position.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Preform 1, has cylindrical end 2, with an additional cup shaped end 3 with an air gap 4. The cup shaped end 3 meets cylindrical region 1 at 5. Alternatively the cup shape can be cylindrical as shown by lines 6 and 7 in FIG. 3. FIG. 2 shows a variation of the shape of the gap and also shows that the air gap can be completely enclosed without need for an opening 8 as shown in FIG. 1.

There can be a hole in the cup if required (FIG. 1, FIG. 3) or none as in FIG. 2.

The preform is injection molded using an air molding technique that allows an air space 4 to be formed. This technique is commercially available to make items with air gaps. The air is injected into the mold before the complete filling of the mold with

plastic molten material, and before the plastic is fully pressurized so as to completely fill the extremities of the mold leaving an air gap.

The bottle can be blown by having a base support rod 9 (FIG. 1, FIG. 3) that supports the preform on the inside surface 2, as it is blown. This also helps center the preform and subsequently the hemispherical bottom of the bottle. Simultaneously air pressure can be put into cavity 4 to blow cup shaped end 3 into place, as shown in FIG. 4). Normally this secondary pressure is initially higher than the bottle blowing pressure so that the air gap can become larger. Also at the final stages the base cup must be formed in the blow mold cavity and the hemispherical base must be kept above the bottom of the base cup. Apart from this reason, the air pressure causes the base cup to acquire a biaxial stretch, thereby making it stronger and potentially lighter. Depending on the thickness of the preform and the relative temperatures of the plastic in the base cup and the bottom of the preform, the air pressure in the air gap has to be varied to give the desired shape to the bottom 7 in FIG. 3.

Another method of forming the base cup is by using finger mechanisms attached to rod 9 that expand during the blowing step, thus forming the base. There can be air assist if necessary. these fingers can expand the base, and even pull it, provided the resistance to pulling is less than in the body of the preform. This resistance is a function of the temperature and the thickness of the plastic. Air under pressure can be introduced to assist the fingers to accomplish the forming of the base cup.

The fingers or the differential pressure helps maintain a gap 10 between the hemisphere 11 and the base cup which is formed in the mold (FIG. 4). Alternatively, a bottom rod 9 can be used to maintain the gap (FIG. 2). The base gets biaxially stretched this way during formation thereby imparting strength. An alternative is to introduce a blow pin without a bottom rod, such that the formed base has an enclosed air gap in it when pressurized air is sent through the blow pin. In this case it is possible to use a rubber valve inserted in the base cup to retain air pressure in the air gap.

One advantage of this kind of a base is that all the air in the air gap 10 does not need to be evacuated. Let us assume we leave 15 psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure in the space. If the soft drink exerts 60 psi of pressure, the net pressure on the base is 45 psi, thus reducing stress and allowing thinning of the hemisphere. Also this air can provide a cushioning effect for impact and mishandling and can provide rigidity to the base.

Another variation is to have a preform with a cup molded with it.

This has the advantage of allowing the preform to self center and the base to be in place while blowing the bottle. The disadvantage is that the spacing between

preforms in the multicavity molds is increased, as also the separation force in the mold, requiring larger clamping tonnage.

However, for the one step PET process, this may be a very acceptable method of making the base. In these processes the injection mold centers are dictated by the bottle centers, and the preform is directly converted into a bottle in the same machine making preforms.

The base cup can be of a different material than the bottle 13, of FIG. 4, by using coinjection techniques.

The teachings of this invention can be extended to extrusion blow molding of bottles, where two pinch offs are required causing an air gap between them.

CLAIMS

1. A preform (1) for a bottle (13), said preform having a product receiving portion and a bottom defining portion (7, 12), said product receiving portion including a mouth portion and a closed generally hemispherical end portion (2, 11), said bottom defining portion being integral with said product receiving portion and connected thereto adjacent said closed hemispherical end portion, and said bottom defining portion including a void (4) therein for forming a hollow portion (10).

2. A preform as defined in claim 1 wherein said bottom defining portion includes an annular wall portion (6) extending from said hemispherical end portion and a bottom wall defining portion (7, 12) extending inwardly from said annular wall portion.

3. A preform as defined in claim 2 wherein said bottom defining wall portion is closed and forms a closed portion (4) for containing fluid therein.

4. A preform as defined in claim 3 wherein said fluid in said closed portion is at an elevated pressure and acts upon said hemispherical end portion.

5. A preform as defined in claim 1 wherein said bottom defining portion is formed of material different than the material of said product receiving portion.

6. A method of forming a bottle for containing fluids therein, said method comprising the steps of forming a preform including a product receiving portion having a mouth portion and a closed generally hemispherical end portion and a bottom defining including a void (4) for forming a hollow base portion, forming said bottom defining portion integral with said product receiving portion and connected thereto adjacent said closed hemispherical end portion, and blow molding a bottle from said preform for forming a bottle having a hollow base portion integral with said product receiving portion.

7. A method as defined in claim 6 including the step of providing fluid under pressure in said void for applying pressure to said generally hemispherical end portion.

8. A bottle (13), said bottle being formed in one-piece and having a product receiving portion and a bottom portion each being formed of the same material, said product receiving portion including a mouth portion and a closed generally hemispherical end portion (11), said bottom portion being connected with said product receiving portion and being integrally formed therewith adjacent said closed hemispherical end portion, and said bottom portion including a void (10) therein for defining a hollow base portion, said void being defined by said bottom portion including an annular wall portion extending from said closed hemispherical end portion and a bottom wall portion extending inwardly from said annular wall portion for

forming a generally cylindrical cup portion having a generally closed bottom wall (7, 12).

9. A bottle as defined in claim 8 wherein said bottom wall portion is closed for encapsulating said void, and said void contains fluid therein for acting upon said hemispherical end portion.

10. A bottle as defined in claim 9 wherein said pressure is above ambient pressure.

11. A bottle as defined in claim 9 wherein said product receiving portion and said bottom portion are formed of different materials.

12. A bottle as defined in claim 9 wherein said bottom portion is biaxially stretched during formation thereof.

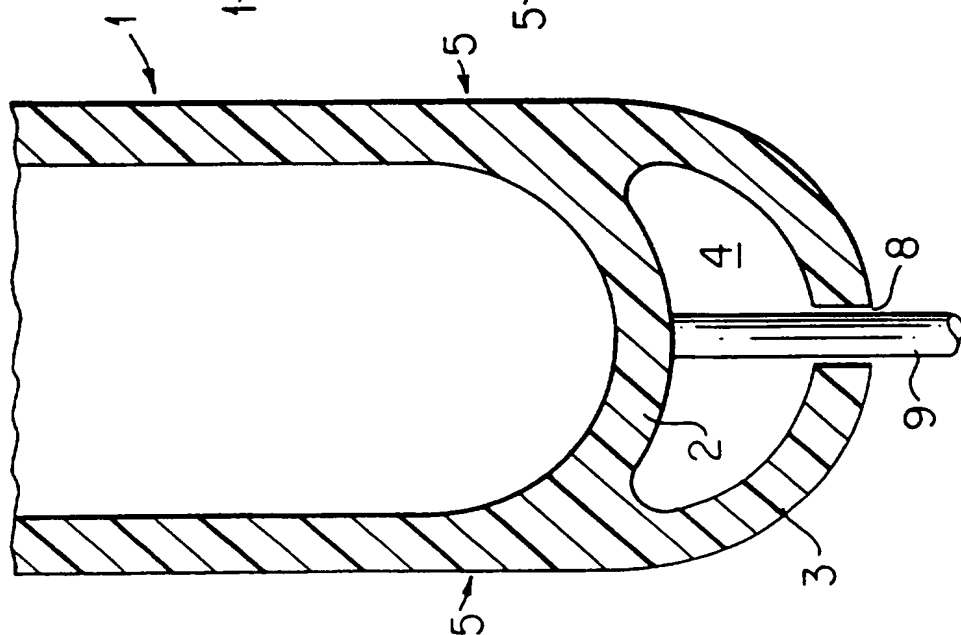


FIG. 1

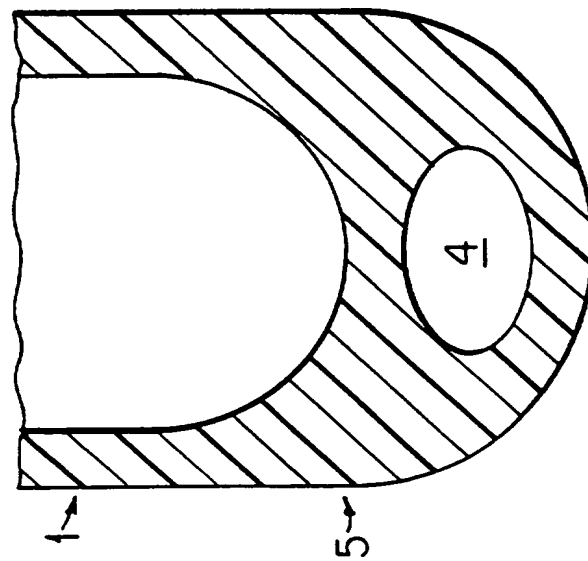


FIG. 2

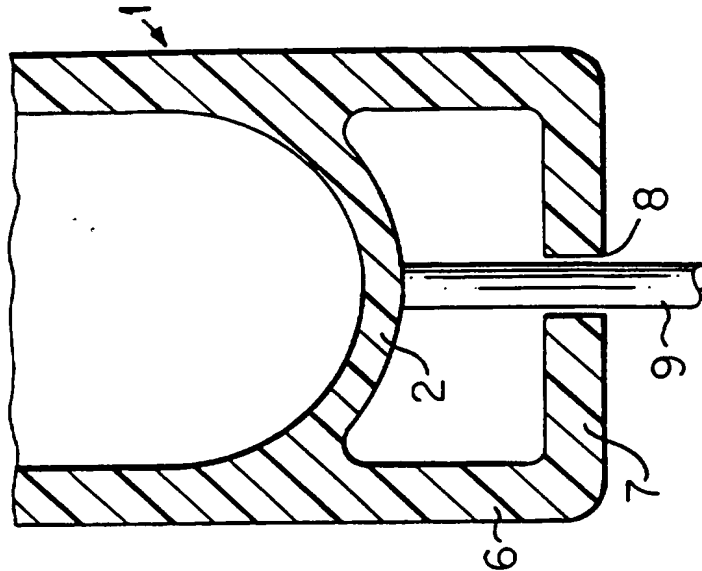
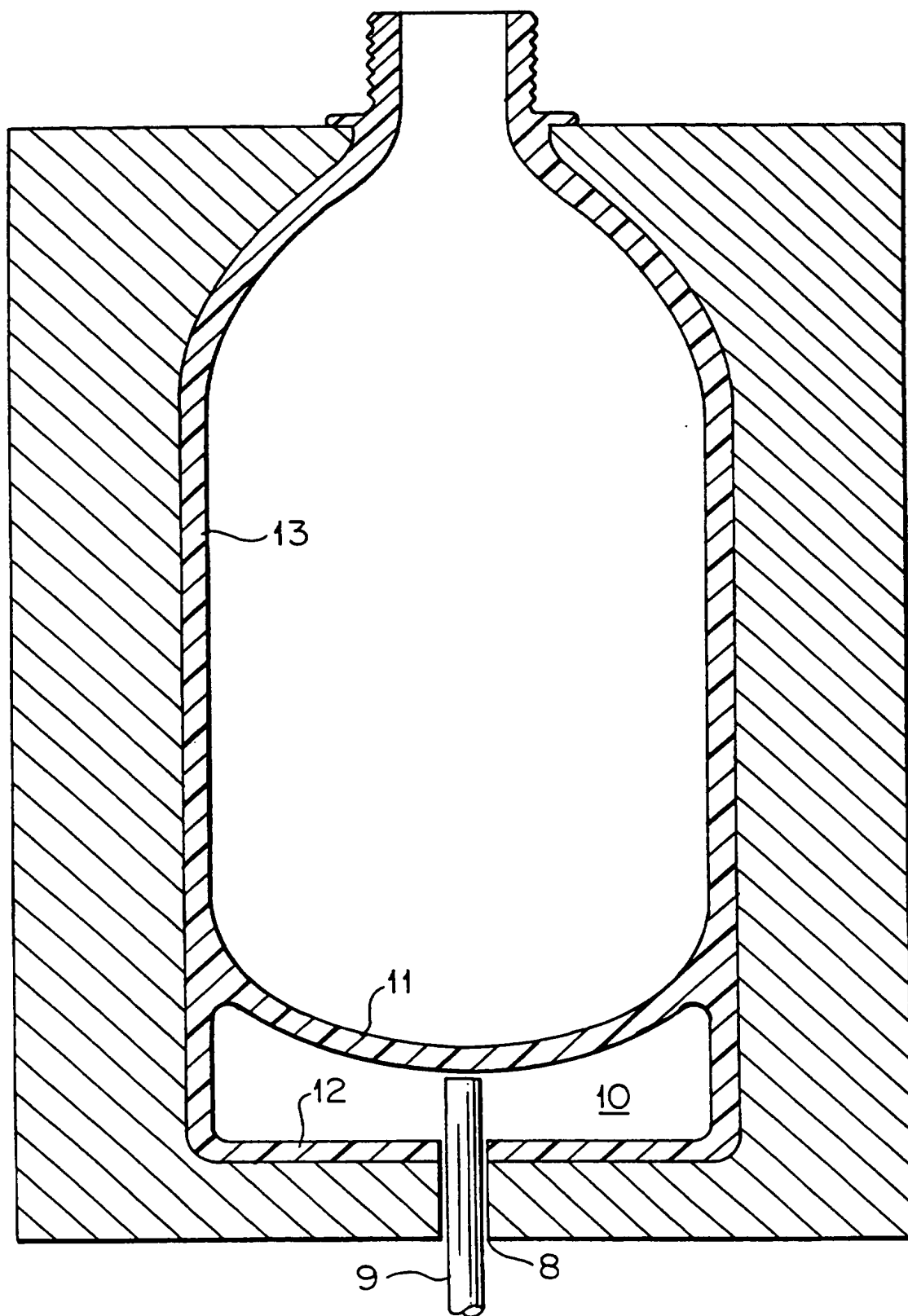


FIG. 3

*FIG. 4*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PC 895/03820

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : B65D 1/02, 23/00

US CL : 428/35.7; 215/1C; 264/516

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 428/35.7, 36.92, 542.8; 215/1C, 12.1, 100R, 6, 10; 264/516

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 3,843,005 (UHLIG) 22 October 1974, see col. 3, lines 35-65.	1-12
Y	US, A, 4,442,944 (YOSHINO ET AL) 17 April 1984, col. 2, lines 32-60.	1-12
Y	US, A, 3,926,324 (ZAVASNIK) 16 December 1975, col. 1, line 43- col. 2, line 50.	1-12



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	*X*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y*	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z*	document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 MAY 1995

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 JUN 1995

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

CHARLES R. NOLD

Telephone No. (703) 308-2351

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)